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INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 9161  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2933  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0108  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 4380  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0106  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
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USTR FOR EISSENSTAT AND HARMAN; DOL FOR STROTKAMP, ZOLLNER  
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SUBJECT: GOC RESPONSE TO TVPRA LIST OF GOODS PRODUCED WITH  
CHILD LABOR

REF: STATE 92560

#### SUMMARY

1. (U) Post delivered reftel demarche to GOC officials on September 9 concerning the release of the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor." Only the Ministry of Social Protection (MPS) responded to the demarche, providing the embassy with a detailed report enumerating GOC advances on child labor. While the GOC recognizes that more work needs to be done, Colombian authorities believe they have made considerable progress in combating child labor. End Summary.

#### DEMARCHE RECIPIENTS

2. (U) EmbOffs demarched the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Labor, Trade, Agriculture, Mines and Energy, Finance, the Colombian Institute of Geology and Mines, and the Presidential Program on Human Rights. EconOffs also discussed the report with the private sector and major industry associations.

RESPONSE: GOC TAKING ACTION AGAINST CHILD LABOR

3. (U) The MPS took the lead in responding with a report on recent GOC advances in combating child labor (forwarded to WHA, DRL, and DOL/ELAB). Legislative actions include ratification of the ILO Minimum Age Convention (Convention 138) in February, 2001, and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (Convention 182) in January, 2005. The GOC also incorporated a "List of Prohibited Jobs" for minors into MPS Resolution 1677 of 2008, which specifically prohibits minors from working in certain activities, including those cited in the DOL list: clay bricks, coca, coffee, mining (coal, emeralds, and gold), pornography, and sugar cane. Resolution 1677 is viewable at:  
<http://www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co/VBeCont ent/ library/documents/DocNewsNo17429DocumentNo689 3.PDF>.

4. (U) The MPS report highlights GOC's "National Strategy for the Prevention and Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and the Protection of Young Workers." Released in February 2008, it aims to reduce the percentage of children and adolescents ages 10 to 17 in the economically active population to 5% (from a base measure of 6.5% in 2004)

by 2010, and to 2.5% by 2019. The GOC has invested \$7 billion over the last two years to guarantee and reinforce the rights of at-risk children and adolescents. The national strategy is viewable at:  
<http://www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co/vbecontent/VerImp.asp?ID=17113&IDCompany=3>.

¶5. (U) The MPS notes that an inter-institutional "Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor" is implementing the national strategy. Members include the MPS, the Ministry of Education, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, the Department of National Planning (DNP), private sector groups, and NGOs. Its objectives are to develop measurement and monitoring tools; inform public policy; build institutional capacity; transform cultural perceptions; and intervene directly in cases of the worst forms of child labor. In 2009 the committee has assisted 73,637 Colombian children and adolescents.

¶6. (U) The Office of the Attorney General (Fiscalia) has also designed and begun to implement a program for organizing and educating provincial and municipal authorities to assist in preventing and ending child labor.

#### RAISING AWARENESS

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¶7. (U) The GOC has launched a public awareness campaign designed to change cultural practices among the principal actors (parents, teachers, and employers) involved in child labor. The campaign consists of periodic television commercials broadcast by the National Commission of Television, and the distribution of pedagogical tools for teachers.

#### POLLS SHOW DECLINING INCIDENCE

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¶8. (U) Since 2001, the GOC has included a child labor module in its biennial household surveys to help measure the extent of the problem. The latest three polls show a declining incidence of child labor as reported by Colombian households: 12.8% (2003), 10.4% (2005), and 8.9% (2007). Still, the GOC recognizes that a significant number of children continue to be linked to prohibited economic activity, and it remains pledged to further reducing these incidences.

Brownfield